

Note at Mt.2:4 to go with Mk.1:22. "...not as the Scribes.":

The "teachers of the law" (or "scribes") were so called because it was their office to make copies of the Scriptures, to classify and teach the precepts of the oral law (see Pharisees, Mat 3:7, note), and to keep careful count of every letter in the O.T. writings. Such an office was necessary in a religion of law and precept, and was an O.T. function (2 Sam 8:17; 20:25; 1 Ki 4:3; Jer 8:8; 36:10,12,26). To this legitimate work the teachers added a record of rabbinical decisions on questions of ritual <(Halachoth);> the new code resulting from those decisions <(Mishna);> the Hebrew sacred legends (<Gemara,> forming with the <Mishna,> the <Talmud>); commentaries on the O.T. <(Midrashim);> reasonings upon these <(Hagada);> and, finally, mystical interpretations which found in Scripture meanings other than the grammatical, lexical, and obvious ones (the <Kabbala>), not unlike the allegorical method of Origen. In our Lord's time, the Pharisees considered it orthodox to receive this mass of writing which had been superimposed upon and had obscured the Scripture.

<Christ> (first advent): vv. 1 - 6; Mat 4:16. (Gen 3:15; Acts 1:11)